

# **The Demand Side: Behavioral Patterns and Unpicked Low-Hanging Fruit**

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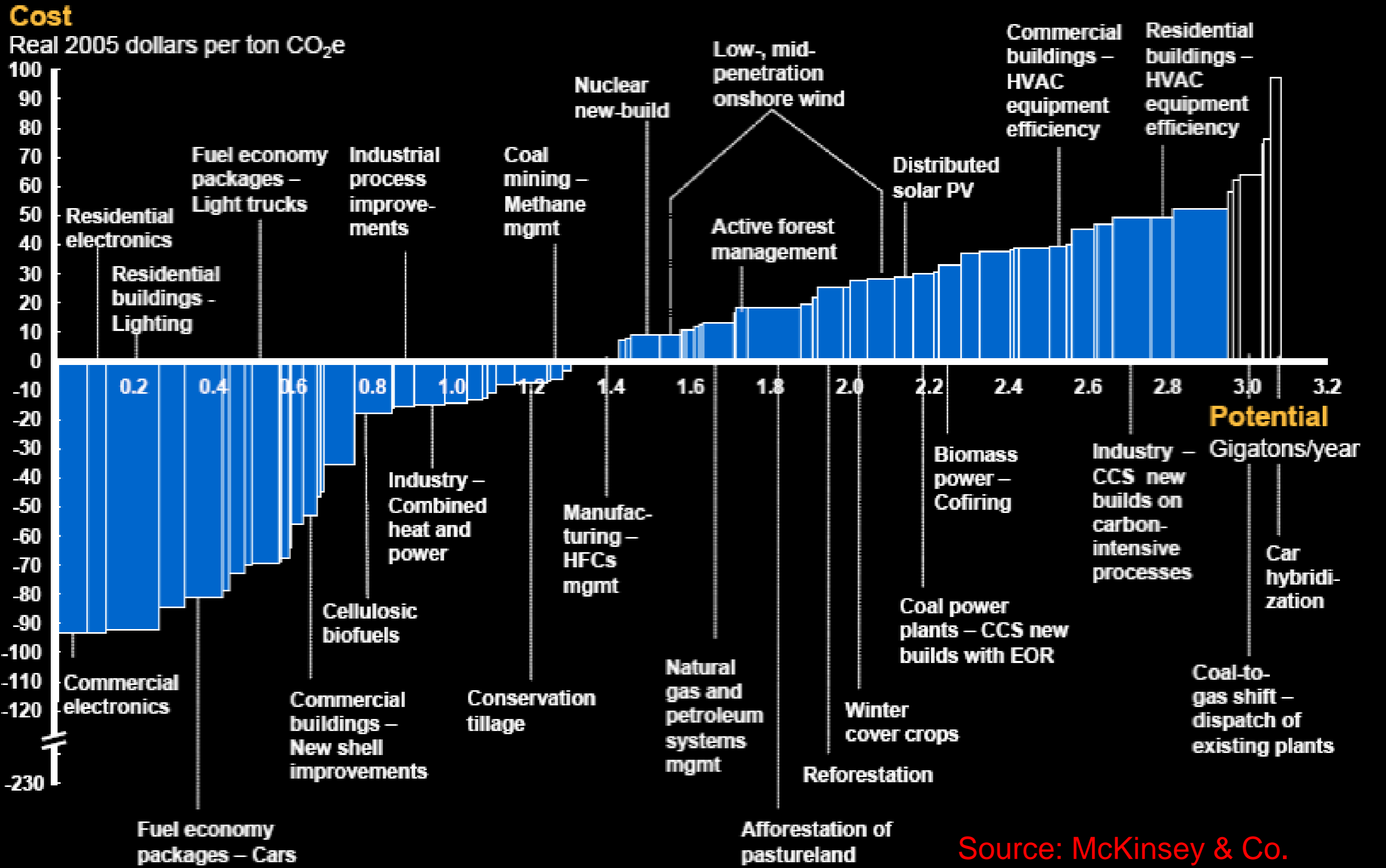
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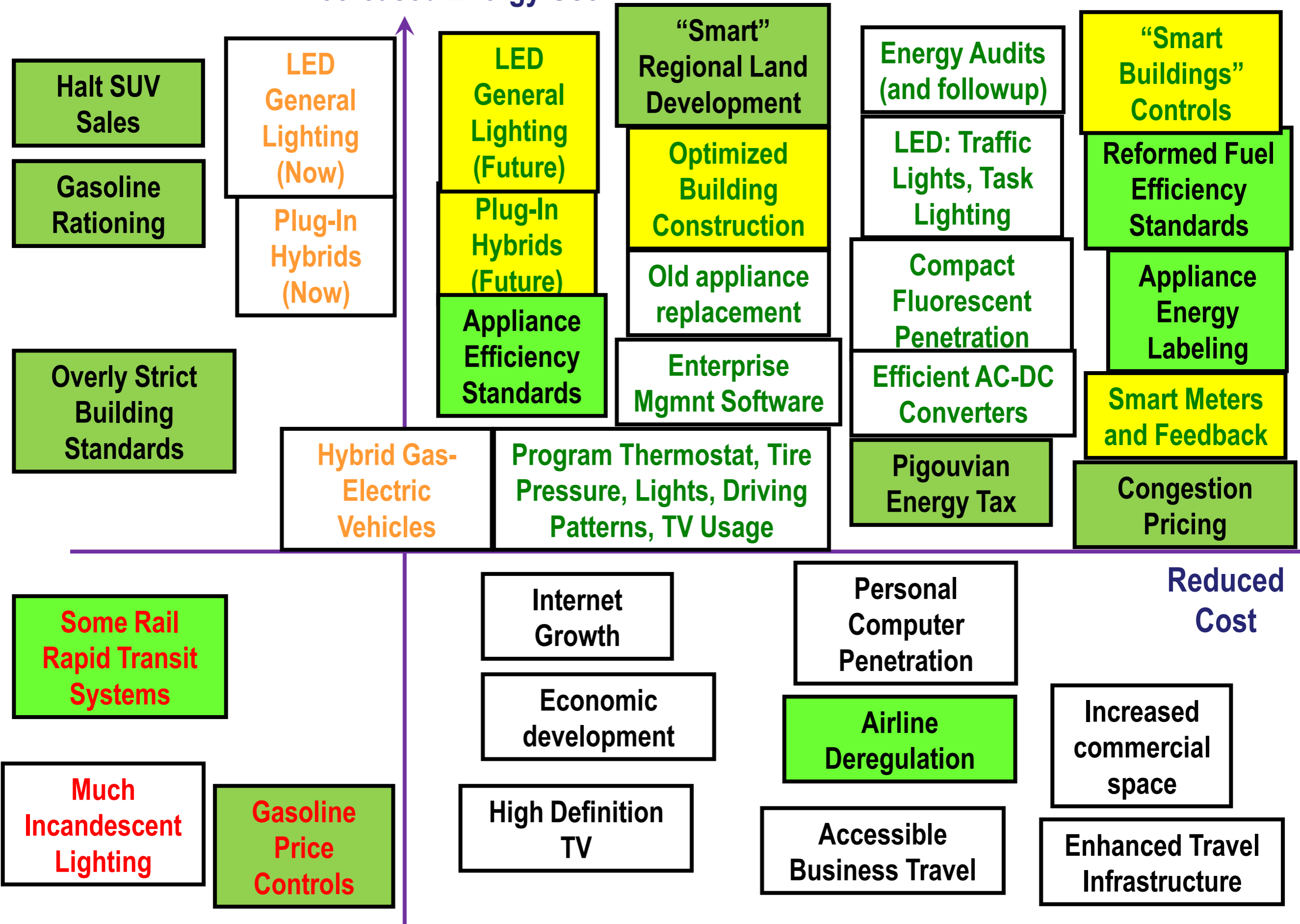
# GHG reduction opportunities widely distributed – 2030 mid-range case

Abatement costs <\$50/ton



Source: McKinsey & Co.

# Decreased Energy Use



# **Why Do Negative Cost Options Continue ?**

## **Some Incomplete Explanations**

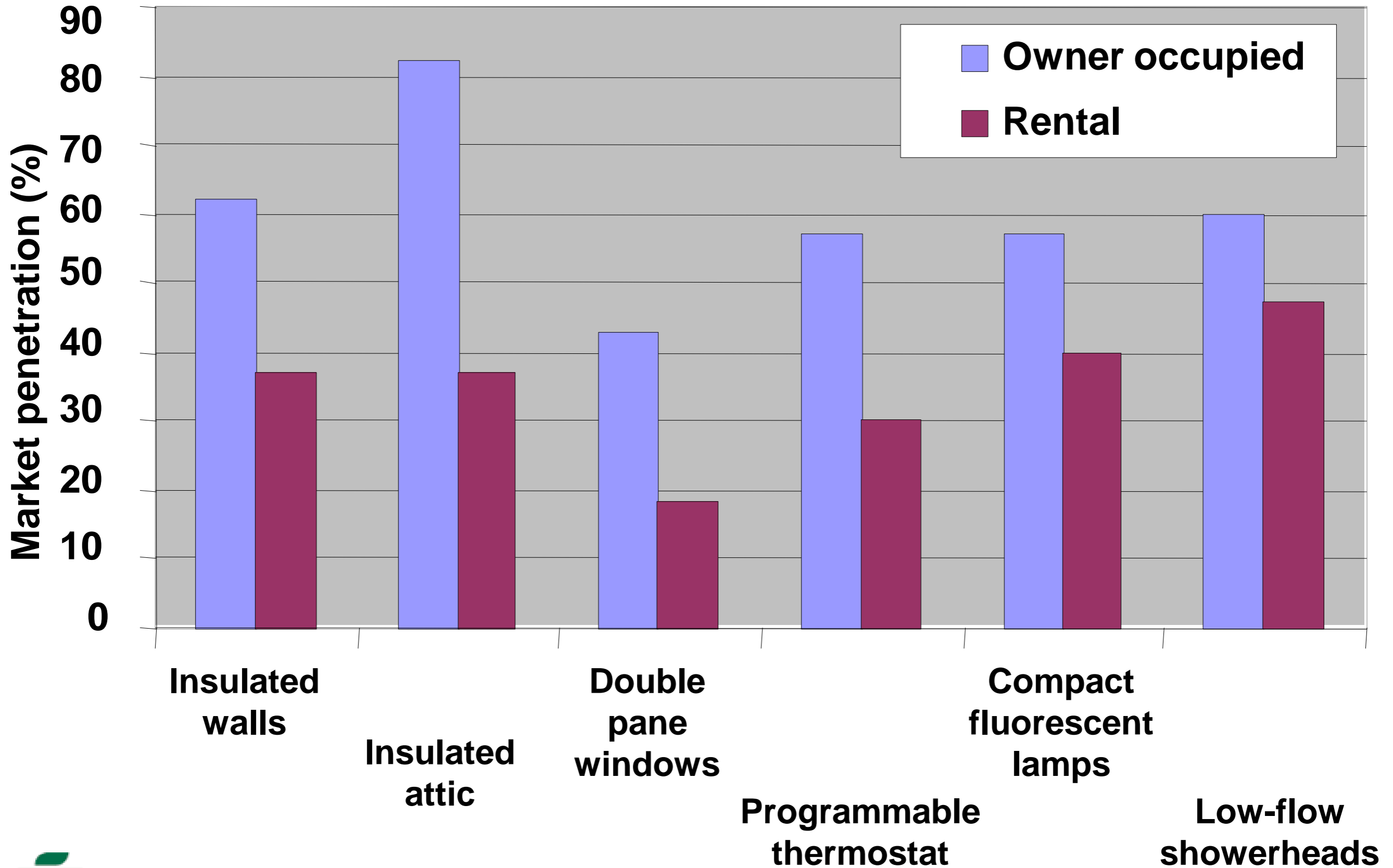
# Market Failures and Behavioral Issues

Market failures	Behavioral Issues
<p><b>Externalities: Usage; R&amp;D</b></p>	<p><b>Low salience of energy issues ???</b></p>
<p><b>Principal/Agent Problems</b></p>	<p><b>Principal/Agent Problems</b></p>
<p><b>Poor Information about Prices and Energy Use</b></p>	<p><b>Poor Information about Prices and Energy Use</b></p>
<p><b>Incomplete markets for energy efficiency</b></p>	<p><b>Managerial Priorities</b></p>
<p><b>Systems Issues (E.g. Chicken &amp; Egg)</b></p>	<p><b>Lack of Energy-Related Information Systems</b></p>
<p><b>Distortionary regulatory and fiscal policies</b></p>	<p><b>Cognitive Skills</b></p>

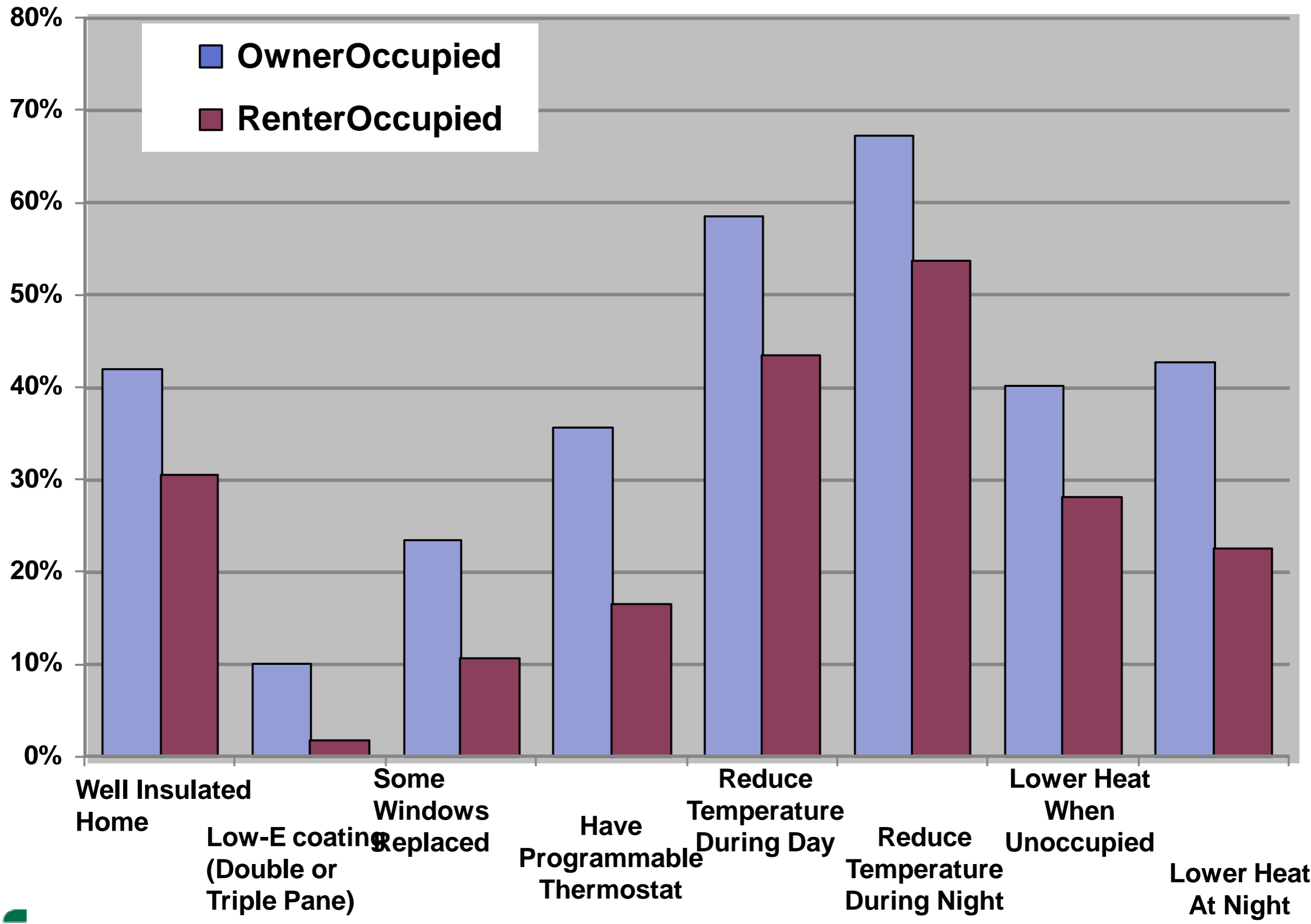
# Principal/Agent Problems

- **Examples**
  - New Building Construction
  - Rental vs Owner-occupied buildings
  - Consumer Product Design
  - Consumer Product Marketing
- **Information/cognitive limitations generally central to agency problems**
  - Electricity Use by TVs, passive chargers
  - Digital set top recorders

# Market Penetration of Energy Efficiency Measures in Owner-Occupied and Rental Housing in California (CEC 2004)



# Fraction of Homes With Efficient Technologies or Behaviors



Source: Calculated from the 2005 RECS survey, by Anant Sudarshan

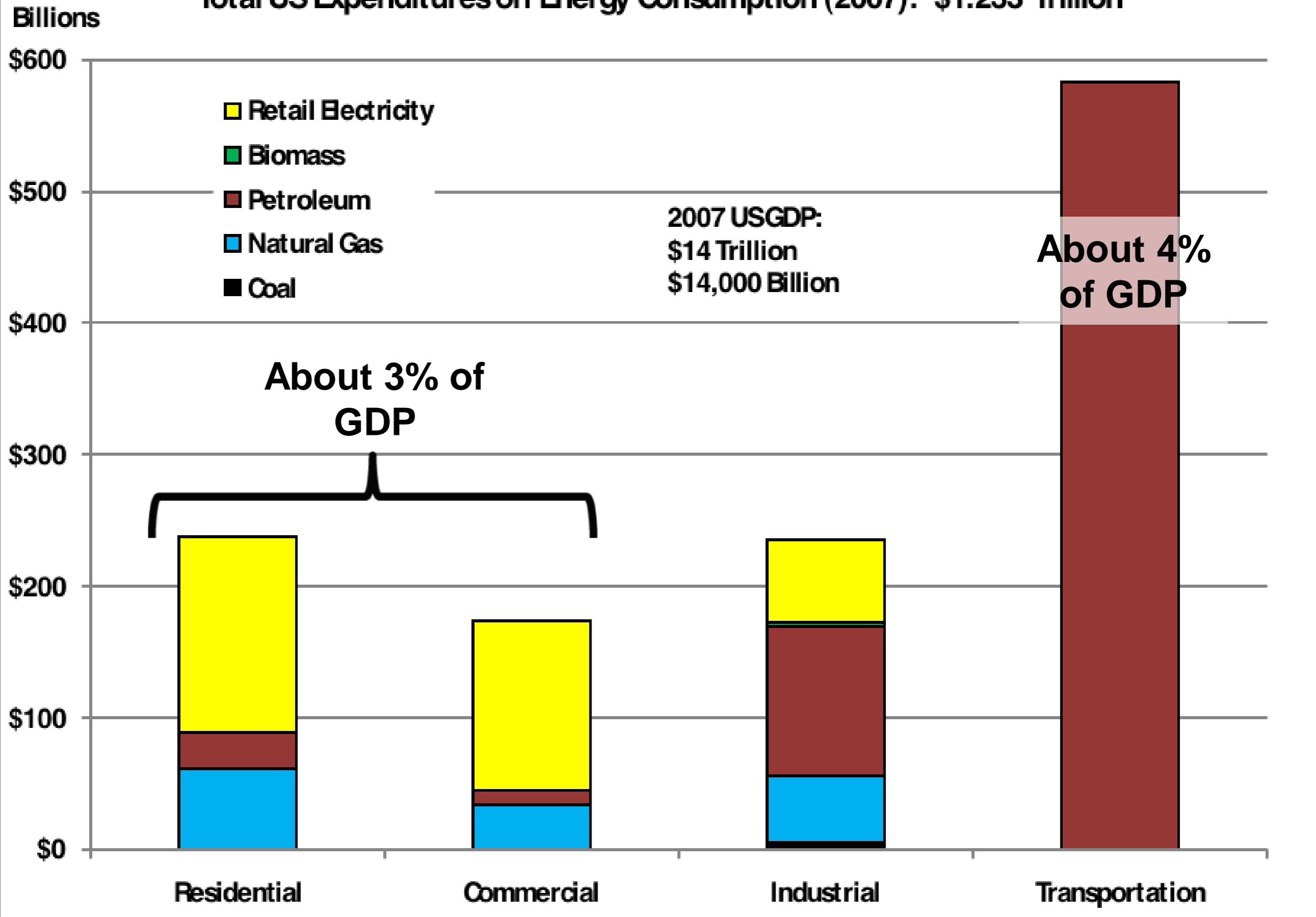




# Behavioral Issues: Salience/Cognitive

- **Low Priority of Energy Issues**
  - Often stated: energy costs are so small that it is not worth the effort to try to optimize.
    - Transactions costs of optimizing are greater than marginal gain.
  - But I doubt that is end of story.
- **Cognitive issues**
  - Probably very important for residential, small commercial, and individual transportation decisions
  - 2004 study. Only 20% of Americans own programmable thermostats. Of those, 70% have never programmed their thermostats.

# Total US Expenditures on Energy Consumption (2007): \$1.233 Trillion



# Poor Information: Prices and Energy Use

- **Electricity Use: Point of Purchase**
  - Ease of Information about use (TV, Communications Equip.)
    - When appliance is on
    - When appliance is off
  - Appliances purchased in emergency
    - Water heaters
    - Furnaces
  - This problem need not be: e.g. refrigerator cost labeling
- **Electricity Use By Appliances: Time of Use**
  - Monthly electricity bills
    - What is link between what you do and the monthly bill?
    - What is the price structure you face for electricity?





*“It runs on its conventional gasoline-powered engine until it senses guilt, at which point it switches over to battery power.”*

# Some Motivational Approaches

- **Pricing**

- **A carbon price would have pervasive effects on energy use in all sectors**
- **However, carbon prices will not address many of the market failures nor the information and cognitive issues**
- **Navy experiment with base housing: benchmarks and charges or payments for deviations in energy use from the benchmarks**
- **Gasoline taxes in Europe vs US motivate purchase of smaller more fuel efficient vehicles**

# Some Motivational Approaches

- **Information**
  - **Labeling; e.g. Energy Star**
  - **Building performance rating and rating disclosure.**
    - **E.g., California mandatory building ratings**
  - **Easily processed economic data**
- **Information systems**
  - **New genre of enterprise-wide energy and carbon accounting and management software.**
  - **E.g., C3, Hara. Make it less costly to find energy efficiency options in large distributed organization, allow central management of energy and carbon savings, allow alignment of incentives with management energy goals**

# Other Motivational Approaches

- **Feedback (immediate information linked to decisions)**
  - **Smart meters, sensors, energy information appliances**
  - **Google/Stanford experiment with Google Powermeter**
  - **Three levels of possible feedback**
    - **Consumer use of appliance/technology**
    - **Consumer purchase of appliance/technology**
    - **Manufacturer supply of appliance technology**



# Other Motivational Approaches

- **Stochastic Rewards**
  - **Balaji Prabhakar congestion experiment with Infosys in Bangalore, India**
  - **Goal: incentives for Infosys commuters to travel at uncongested times**
  - **Infosys employees given chance for one month extra salary each time they took bus to arrive one half hour earlier than rush hour, two chances for arriving one hour earlier.**
    - **Expected value per ticket was 20 rupees – 10 cents.**
    - **Roughly 15% of employees decided to come one-half hour or one hour early.**

# Other Motivational Approaches

- **Social norms**
  - **Billing information that compares electricity use to neighbors or other norms. E.g. OPower mailings.**
  - **Navy housing experiments mentioned in last slide**

# Analogies

- **Smoking.** How did US move from nation of predominantly smokers to predominantly non-smokers?
- **Motivating obesity solutions**
  - If most of your friends are obese, then obesity is seen as norm
- **Motivating litter reduction**
  - Robert Cialdini work



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